

POLYCHAETA FROM SOUTHEASTERN AUSTRALIA. 1. ACROCIRRIDAE BANSE, 1969, FROM VICTORIA AND NEW SOUTH WALES

JERRY D. KUDENOV

Marine Pollution Studies Group,
Fisheries and Wildlife Division, Melbourne

SUMMARY

Acrocirrus aciculigerus n. sp. and *Macrochaeta australiensis* n. sp. (Acrocirridae) are described, and keys to all known species of each genus are given. This is the first record of *Macrochaeta* in Australia.

INTRODUCTION

The Acrocirridae was established by Banse (1969). It contains two genera, *Acrocirrus* Grube, 1872, and *Macrochaeta* Grube, 1850, which were previously included in the Cirratulidae (see Day, 1967). Acrocirrids are separable from cirratulids because they have multiarticulate notosetae and simple or composite falcigers in the neuropodia. Cirratulids have simple capillary setae and acicular spines. Acrocirrids are further characterised in having ventrally grooved palpi, the prostomium situated on top of the peristomium and branchiae generally restricted to four anterior segments. Distinct parapodial lobes may be present. The Acrocirridae shares a number of similar characteristics with the Flabelligeridae. For example, both families have a buccal bulb, composite setae, acicula and the blood pigment, chlorocruorin (Mesnil, 1899; Banse, 1969).

Acrocirrids have been reported from numerous localities in the northern hemisphere, and are known from New Zealand and Antarctica in the southern hemisphere. This paper describes a new species each of *Acrocirrus* and *Macrochaeta*. Although Bennett (1966) records the former genus from New South Wales, this is the first record of the latter genus in Australia. Specimens of *Acrocirrus* were obtained from the Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales; specimens of *Macrochaeta* were obtained from Western Port (Westernport Bay Environmental Survey (WBES), Fisheries and Wildlife Division, Melbourne, Victoria), and from Point Gellibrand, Port Phillip Bay, Victoria. Type material has been deposited in the National Museum of Victoria, Melbourne (N.M.V.); the Australian Museum, Sydney (A.M.); and the Allan Hancock Foundation, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, USA (AHF).